

CLASS SPECIFICATION
County of Fairfax, Virginia

CLASS CODE: 3633

TITLE: PSYCHOLOGY INTERN

GRADE: S-15

NATURE OF WORK:

This is a combined training and work assignment in clinical psychology.

An employee in this category performs responsible professional duties in psychology to fulfill the practical internship requirements for a doctorate. Work is performed under close supervision of a professional psychologist, who plans assignments considering both patient needs and the training requirements of the intern, evaluating work in process. Evaluations are shared with the cognizant university faculty, satisfactory completion of the internship is a prerequisite for acquiring a doctoral degree.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Any one position may not include all of the duties listed, nor do the examples cover all the duties which may be performed.)

Administers standard intelligence, mental deterioration, social maturity, and other psychological tests, scores tests and interprets test results, consults with primary therapists and the individuals and/or families involved in interpretive follow-up sessions.

Interviews potential patients, collects history from patients and members of their families, analyzes information obtained to determine how the clinic can best serve each patient or family, prepares intake and social histories for patients' files; presents patients' case to staff for recommendations.

Serves as student/participant in a mental health program of an in-patient hospital; attends group therapy sessions with in-patients; attends staff conferences to determine patient progress and determine disposition of cases.

Utilizes specialized psychological test instruments in attempting to provide data as to the organic, intellectual, and emotional status of the patient with a view toward using the data to outline a plan of therapeutic intervention.

Conducts face-to-face meetings with patients to help them clarify the nature of the distress they feel and to assist them in resolving problems in life adjustment; explores sources of conflict which impede function; guides the patient in his discovery of possible changes in thinking, feeling, and acting which may change the patient's original perception of his life situation.

Co-leads groups of patients in a setting providing a forum for the amelioration of maladjustive behavior in a context of interpersonal interaction.

Conducts play therapy sessions for young children who cannot yet verbalize their feelings.

Meets with representatives of community services to assist them in discussing particular cases or to assist them in meeting their operational requirements through diagnostic evaluations, therapeutic activities, and personal development activities.

Attends seminars and lectures; attends staff meetings.

Answers telephone calls of persons with need for services, screens calls, refers to other agencies or services, if appropriate, assigns cases to intake therapists.

Performs related work as required.

REQUIREMENTS OF WORK:

Knowledge of the basic principles of psychology, sociology, and other social sciences and of current social, economic, and health problems.

Knowledge of standard psychological testing methods and interpretation of test results.

Some knowledge of individual and group behavior and of effective ways of working with people.

Some knowledge of mental illness, mental deterioration, mental retardation, and personality defects.

Ability to interview persons, secure pertinent information, and to provide appropriate psychotherapeutic counseling service.

Ability to work with and to gain the confidence of mentally ill or socially abnormal persons or disturbed children.

Ability to prepare clear and concise reports, orally or in writing, and to analyze psychological data.

DESIRABLE PREPARATION FOR WORK:

Graduation from an accredited college or university with major work in psychology, supplemented by graduate work in clinical psychology to the level of a Master's degree.